

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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NO. 1

DUCKS LIMITED

A cold wind and an overcast sky greeted twelve bird students on the morning of February tenth as they gathered at the terminal of the Middle River bus line. On the road to Bowley's Bar a flock of fifteen or more Robins were sighted in an open field; this was the first Robin record of the year for many of the group. At Bowley's bar a lone Whistling Swan came winging in over the water and veered off upon sighting our group. Flocks of ducks could be seen flying in the distance but identification was not possible. About six American Mergansers were observed just before we left this area.

Several stops were made near Oliver Point. Ducks in small flocks were seen flying about but not close enough to identify as to species. Most of them seemed to be scaup ducks. Seven Whistling Swan were observed close in shore at one point, but upon our closer approach they swam slowly out to deep water. Three of the swan were in immature plumage. The heads and necks of all of them were streaked and dark looking; they had evidently been feeding in a mucky shallow. Small groups of American Mergansers were "trading" back and forth.

Most of the smaller land birds were observed near Oliver Point. A Cardinal and several Song Sparrows were feeding on bread crumbs near one of the cottages. Tree Sparrows and Juncoes were moving about in the shrubbery. Two white-breasted Nuthatches called and fed in the branches of some large trees near the water's edge. Herring Gulls were observed at most of the water front sites whenever we stopped. Two Ring-billed Gulls flew close enough to be carefully identified. English Sparrows and Starlings were added to the list at several spots.

The group enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Orville Crowder at his place on Railroad Creek. After a warm meal and much bird talk, part of the group continued the trip. A small flock of Bluebirds were observed perching on the wires along the road as we drove to Otter Point. Here again the ducks were too far out to identify with any certainty. Most of the creeks had been frozen over for weeks and the ice was just breaking up. This we decided was the reason so few ducks were seen. Later in the season, when the ice is out and the northward migration is in full swing this area will have a large population of waterfowl. And here too will be our group, observing and recording the thrilling phenomena of migration.

Irving E. Hampe

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1945

Introduction

The Society was able to gather but three Christmas counts for the Baltimore region in this first year. Two of these were submitted to the national report published by Audubon Magazine. The third, while not conforming to the national rules is of interest as representing an area which our group has been visiting monthly in a survey of its year-round birdlife.

Baltimore County, Md. (West shore of Chesapeake Bay from Middle River to Gunpowder River, inland to B & O Railroad. Open farmland 30%, mixed woodland 40%, cattail marsh 10%, tidewater creeks 20%) Dec. 30; 8 A. M. to 4 P. M. Heavy overcast turning to very heavy fog at 10 A. M.; fog with rain from 11 A. M. on. Wind N., 13-18 m.p.h.; temp. 30°-35° F.; ground covered with 3 inches of old snow; creeks frozen - open water of bay estuaries beyond limit of visibility in fog. Six observers in 3 parties. Total hours, 16 on foot; total miles 21 on foot. Great blue heron, 1; whistling swan, 8; redhead duck, 1; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; herring gull, 3; flicker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 9; blue jay, 15; crow, 37; tufted titmouse, 8; white breasted nuthatch, 1; Carolina wren, 5; mockingbird, 1; bluebird, 8; golden-crowned kinglet, 7; starling, 78; English sparrow, 38; redwinged blackbird, 21; cardinal, 15; goldfinch, 14; slate-crowned junco, 53; tree sparrow, 55; white-throated sparrow, 12; song sparrow, 4. Total, 25 species; 400 individuals. — O. W. CROWDER, RAY BEASLEY, STEPHEN SIMON, WM. McHOUL, FLORENCE BURNER, PEARL HEAPS. (Maryland Ornithological Society).

Loch Raven (Baltimore Co.) Md. (From Towson around the lake through Dulaney Valley. Same general area as former counts; time divided into 75% early serial stages -- 20-30 years following cultivation --; 5% mature deciduous woodland; 10% cultivated land; 10% coniferous plantations.) Dec. 23; 6:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; clear; about 6 in. snow on ground; about 50% of lake ice-covered; wind NW, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 25-15F. (Baltimore City readings). Total hours 11 on foot; total miles 18 on foot. Mallard, 1; black duck, 3; American merganser, 52; turkey vulture, 6; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 1; mourning dove, 47; flicker, 1; downy woodpecker, 10; crow, 111; black-capped chickadee, 1 (direct comparison visually and vocally with next species); Carolina chickadee, 11; tufted titmouse, 5; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; Carolina wren, 1; robin, 2; bluebird, 39; golden-crowned kinglet, 2; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; starling, 5; myrtle warbler, 2; meadowlark, 2; cardinal, 9; purple finch, 1; goldfinch, 15; junco, 88; tree sparrow, 77; white-throated sparrow, 10; swamp sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 3. Total, 30 species; 511 individuals. — HAVEN KOLB.

Lake Roland (Baltimore Co.) Md. Dec. 28; morning hours; day heavily cloudy; ground covered by snow; temperature about 40°. Mallard, 10; herring gull, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 5; phoebe, 1; blue jay, 1; crow, 7; Carolina chickadee, 3; tufted titmouse, 2; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; Carolina wren, 1; redwinged blackbird, 2; cardinal, 5; goldfinch, 4; junco, 41; tree

sparrow, 51; white-throated sparrow, 5; song sparrow, 37. Total, 18 species; 179 individuals — RAY J. BEASLEY

FLORIDA GALLINULE AT BROOKLYN ON AUGUST 26

On the Patapsco River marsh at Brooklyn on the morning of August 26, 1945, I had a brief view of a Florida Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus cachinnans). This date is two weeks earlier than the September 8 given for the beginning of the fall migration in the Natural History Society of Maryland's "Birds of Baltimore and Vicinity".

It may be noted in this connection that although the 1938 pamphlet just mentioned lists the Florida Gallinule as a migrant in the Baltimore area, and F. C. Kirkwood's 1895 "List of the Birds of Maryland" also regarded it as a migrant, Ralph W. Jackson in the Natural History Society's Bulletin for April, 1941, gives a breeding record for the vicinity of Cambridge. May Thacher Cooke's 1929 "Birds of the Washington, D.C., Region" also reports it a "rare and local breeder."

The bird I saw was immediately above the B. & O. Railroad trestle that is next upriver from the Brooklyn span of the Hanover Street Bridge. It was swimming along the edge of a lane through the tall reeds and cattails. The red bill and frontal shield were seen clearly, at close range.

Hervey Brackbill

LATE FALL DATE FOR ROSEBREASTED GROSBEAK

On October 21, 1945 I observed a female Rosebreasted Grosbeak at Arbutus, Maryland. The bird was perched in the hedge in my yard when first observed. I approached within ten feet of it and watched as it preened its feathers. The bird had just finished bathing in the creek beyond the hedges. The orange under-wing coverts were plainly seen. This is the latest date for this area judging from the available literature.

Irving E. Hampe

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Note:- In less than a year our Society has more than doubled its membership. Many of our newer members live at some distance from Baltimore or are otherwise unable to attend meetings frequently to learn at first hand the character of their organization. So that we might all be acquainted with the structure and mechanics of the Society we publish below the "Constitution and By-Laws".

CONSTITUTION

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be "Maryland Ornithological Society".

Article II

Object

The object of this Society shall be to record the observations of bird life in Maryland; to disseminate in a popular manner the results of such observation; to collate the scientific data furnished by bird students throughout the State; to supply such available information to other groups as requested; and to promote the cultivation of public sentiment in the preservation of our native bird life.

Article III

Membership

The membership of this Society shall be of two classes; Regular and Junior.

Section 1 The dues of Regular members shall be \$1.00 per year. Only Regular members shall be allowed to vote.

Section 2 The dues of the Junior members shall be \$.50 per year. Junior members shall be under 18 years of age. Junior members will not be permitted to vote on Club business or elections.

Section 3 Membership shall be paid-up for one year next ensuing from the date of such dues, or ensuing from the expiration date of the last previous paid-up membership.

Section 4 Members three months in arrears shall be dropped from the roll.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1 The Officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2 The duties of these Officers shall be those usually pertaining to their office.

Section 3 The above Officers, together with five duly elected members, shall constitute the Executive Council.

Section 4 The Officers and the Executive Council shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected.

Article V

Duties of the Executive Council

Section 1 The Executive Council shall have general charge of the affairs and funds of the Society. It shall be its duty to fill all vacancies among the Officers; and to devise and adopt such measures as shall advance the interests of the Society. It shall meet at the

call of the President on due notice to all its members.

Section 3 Three members, one of whom is not an Officer, shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI
Committees

Section 1 The Executive Council shall make provision for all Standing Committees.

Section 2 Special Committees shall be appointed by the Chair, as required.

Section 3 The President shall be empowered to appoint the members of all Committees.

Article VII
Amendments

Section 1 This Constitution may be amended at any regular stated meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, after the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the Society Members at least fifteen days prior to voting.

Section 2 Repeal of any section or words may be made by the same procedure as for making amendments.

BY-LAWS

Article I
Meetings

Section 1 Regular meetings of the Society shall be held every month on the second Friday evening. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum. The place of such meetings shall be designated by the Executive Council.

Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the President, on approval of the Executive Council.

Section 3 The regular meeting in the month of March shall be considered the Annual Meeting.

Article II
Elections

Section 1 The Officers and five non-Officer members of the Executive Council shall be duly elected at the Annual Meeting, and shall take over their duties at the next regular meeting.

Section 2 A Nominating Committee of three members shall be appointed by the President at least two regular meetings prior to the Annual Meeting. This Committee shall present the names of candidates for offices, and for the five non-officer Executive Council members at the last meeting prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Article III
Amendments

Section 1 By-laws of the Society may be adopted, amended or re-

pealed by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting.

Article IV Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1 The deliberations of all Society and Executive Council meetings shall be governed by Roberts' "Rules of Order".

EDITORIAL NOTES

At the January meeting resolutions were adopted favoring protection for the Bald Eagle by the State of Maryland and the establishment of a closed season on the Bryant Fox Squirrel. These resolutions were presented to the Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission at its semi-annual meeting on January 30. On February 1, H.S. Kolmer, Secretary to the Commission wrote to our president in part as follows:

"I had the pleasure of presenting your Resolution to the Game and Inland Fish Commission at its semi-annual meeting Wednesday, January 30, pertaining to the protection of the bald eagle. As you know, the present law in Maryland classifies the eagle as a predatory bird.

I am happy, however, to advise you that the Commission unanimously adopted a regulation, effective immediately, protecting the gray or bald eagle in the State of Maryland. This regulation will, within the next few days, be publicized in the press and copies of the regulation will be forwarded to all deputy game wardens and the county press."

Concerning the second resolution, Ernest A. Vaughn wrote to Mr. Hampe the following information on February 4:

"I wish to advise that the resolution sponsored by the Maryland Ornithological Society requesting that a closed season be placed on the Bryant fox squirrel in the State of Maryland was discussed thoroughly by the members of the Game and Inland Fish Commission at their regular meeting on January 30, 1946 and that instead of closing the season on this sub-species it was deemed wise to establish a series of small sanctuaries extending across the southern end of Dorchester County which will provide brood stock for that entire area which holds the largest population of Bryant fox squirrels in Maryland.

I might add that the Bryant fox squirrel has extended its range during the past ten years to Talbot, Queen Anne, Somerset, Wicomico and Caroline Counties and that in lower Somerset County around King's Creek and Westover we find a sizeable population. The Wellington

Wildlife Refuge located in southwestern ~~Somerset~~ County is probably responsible for the increase of this squirrel in that area.

I assure you that this Department is giving every consideration toward the perpetuation of this important game animal and although it has had a difficult time to survive, I do not think it is in immediate danger of extinction."

The Editorial Committee is still greatly in need of material and will welcome all contributions, particularly from members who have not yet written for Maryland Birdlife. It will save us much time if contributors will place the number of words in their articles at the top of the first sheet. We have recently received a number of fine suggestions from various members concerning the betterment of this publication. Unfortunately they are often received at busy times when they may easily be overlooked. It would be well if such ideas could be presented to the editor in written form.

The present issue opens Volume II of Maryland Birdlife for it has been deemed wise to make our volumes concurrent with the calendar. Hence Volume I contained but five numbers, a total of twenty-seven pages. The first number lacked a printed heading and bore the title: "Maryland Ornithological Society Bulletin". This number has long been out of print and we have received many requests for copies from persons interested in preserving a complete file. If any of our members have copies which they do not wish to keep the editor will be glad to see that they reach the interested parties. We are particularly desirous of obtaining a copy for the U.S. National Museum.

It seems desirable to have a brief record of the general course of the seasons for year-to-year comparisons. Beginning with the next number the editor will compile such a "Season Report" and he invites assistance from all members in obtaining notes on all matters which will tend to show the natural development of plant and animal life and its effect on birdlife. The period to be covered in the March-April number will be that from December 15 to February 15.

H. K.